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THE MATHEMATICS TEACHER

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ASSOCIATED WITH

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VOLUME VII — MARCH, 1915 — NUMBER 3

EDITORIAL.

Teachers' Bureau.

The editors of this magazine are so often asked to recommend teachers for positions in various educational institutions, that it has been thought best to offer the use of the magazine to institutions which need teachers, and to teachers of mathematics who wish to obtain better positions. The service will be confidential, no names being published, and letters from teachers applying for positions will be forwarded to the school in which the position is open.

In order to make this service of use, it is necessary that teachers of mathematics bring it to the attention of the heads of their institutions, and that they themselves take advantage of it. The service will be free, unless the work assumes a magnitude that makes it necessary to charge a small fee for insertions.

The following notices are samples to indicate the general form to be used:

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES NEEDING TEACHERS.

Wanted: Woman teacher of secondary mathematics for high school in city of thirty thousand. Must have college degree and at least three years of secondary experience. Salary according to preparation and experience. Address S B 5.

Wanted: Man of experience in teaching college mathematics, for assistant professorship in small college in Pennsylvania.

Prefer one who knows conditions in secondary schools, and who is under thirty-five years of age. Address C A 17.

Teachers Desiring Positions.

Man, teacher of secondary mathematics, desires better position. Master of Arts, five years' experience, three in public, two in private school. Can be of value in other school activities. Least salary $1,600. Address K 5.

Directions.

Address all letters relative to this department to Eugene Randolph Smith, Headmaster, The Park School, Baltimore, Md. In answering an advertisement from a school or college, enclose your letter in an unaddressed stamped envelop, and enclose this with your letter to the editor. The blank envelop will be addressed to the school or college by the editor. Letters not enclosing postage cannot be forwarded or answered.

The Last Greek Geometer.

Thales, a philosophizing Greek merchant of the sixth century B. C., is said to have meditated on the very practical Egyptian geometry and to have begun to question nature and attempt to arrive, through philosophy, at the solution of practical problems. These meditations were continued during the legendary age of Pythagorus, growing more philosophic and cryptic, and where revealed expressed in a geometric dialect.

In Plato we have the union of philosophy with mathematics. Later Euclid, like Shakespeare, collects, edits and does some original work. However, the Greek philosopher believed experimental science beneath him, and the men in the street felt it to be blasphemous until Archimedes dared create the "Geometry of Measure." Appolonius followed immediately with the "Geometry of Order" and about 200 B. C. we have the "Golden Age of Greek Mathematics."

No disciple is able to fully appreciate and interpret the writings of either genius for five hundred years, when Pappus, collector, commentator, and investigator, kindles again the ancient fire of the Oracle of Delphi, exhausts the subject of conic sections, and indicates other lines of investigation.

Then all is dark for a thousand years, till finally Kepler adding to his *unusual assortment of knowledge* finds in a musty old book the completed investigation of an abstract problem studied lovingly by mathematicians, for more than eighteen hundred years, merely to satisfy a craving for knowledge. Being *widely* educated, he recognizes the key to one of the most important laws of nature.

Some attempt was made at about this time to discover or reconstruct the ancient and neglected Greek mathematics, but modern philosophers, thinking they followed Leibnitz and Newton, forgot that these masters had made a profound study of the methods of the ancient Greeks.

Novel ideas are apt to spring from comparisons of distinct lines of thought. It has seemed to the writer that distinctly fruitful results may come from the discussion and solution of problems that have been epoch-making.

On another page is an article on "The Five Platonic Bodies." The key is the porportion mentioned as proved in Pappus, of whose works Mr. Weaver is completing a translation and commentary. Can any of our readers obtain this proportion? We expect to publish from time to time other famous problems and invite further solutions, and we will also gladly receive articles suggesting other epoch-making problems, suitable for our general readers.